

Tower Grove Park Shelter Eleven
(South Well)
Tower Grove Park
4255 Arsenal Street
St. Louis
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1137-J

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MO,
96-SALV,
46J-

PHOTOGRAPH
REDUCED COPY OF MEASURED DRAWING
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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TOWER GROVE PARK SHELTER ELEVEN
(SOUTH WELL)

Location: Park headquarters at 4255 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri. The well house lies 180' north of the Arsenal St. gate, on the west side of the drive, within the original boundaries of Tower Grove Park.

USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 15,738700.4276320

Present Owner: City of St. Louis

Present Use: Shelter for public drinking fountain.

Significance: One of the original well-shelters in the city's first driving park, the structure is a well-preserved example of late nineteenth century ornamental garden design.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Spring 1872 (Tower Grove Park Comptroller's Report 1868, p.172 6/6/72).
2. Architect: Eugene L. Greenleaf (TGP Comp. 1868, p.172, 6/6/72). For additional biographical information, see the HABS report on the Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
3. Original and subsequent owners: City of St. Louis.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: David Matthias was the carpenter-builder, and was paid \$240 for his services. Lumber costing \$180 was supplied by Charles H. Peck of St. Louis (TGP Comp. 1868, p.156, 2/2/72).
5. Original plans, construction, etc.: The shelter was one of the Park's original wells. Twelve such structures were in the park, but many were removed when closed by the Board of Health in 1915; still others were destroyed by reckless drivers (Annual Report to Board, 1915, p.10).
6. Alterations and additions: The well was converted to a drinking fountain, presumably after 1915. Probably little of the original fabric of the shelter remains, as it has had rotten members repaired and replaced countless times.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: A view from the northeast, taken after 1890, shows the well; and is in the Park photo files (see HABS photocopy).

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Manuscripts, etc., Henry Shaw's Comptroller's report books 1868, 1875, 1882, and 1888 and the unpublished reports of the Tower Grove Park Board of Commissioners from 1868-1898 are in the custody of Park Superintendent Miss Bernice E. Gurney. They will probably be transferred from her office at 4274 Magnolia Avenue to the Shaw Manuscript collection in the John B. Lehmann Library in the Missouri Botanical Garden 2345 Tower Grove Ave., St. Louis by the end of the summer of 1974.

.. Deed Books: City Hall, Market Street, St. Louis, Mo.

b. Secondary Sources:

Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners Tower Grove Park.
St. Louis: Nixon-Jones Printing, 1899-1919

_____. St. Louis: Arcade Print Shop, 1920

_____. St. Louis: Mound City Press, 1921-1942

_____. St. Louis: Allied Printing, 1943-1959.

MacAdam, David H. Tower Grove Park. St. Louis: R.P. Studley and Co., 1883.

Prepared by: Carolyn Hamm
Field Historian
National Park Service
July, 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General statement:

1. Architectural character: This small pentagonal shelter, the last remaining original wellhouse in Tower Grove Park, is noteworthy for its high, steep, concavely-bowed, shingled roof, and for the curvilinear tracery in the spandrels of each of its five bays.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Pentagonal shape, five bays, each side 7'-0", one story; 29' high to top of roof ornament.
2. Foundations: Concrete bases, covered by macadamized concrete.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The wooden frame structure is painted gray. The five posts are pentagonal with square molding at the springing point of the spandrels, which meet at the center of each bay forming a Gothic arch. The tracery of the spandrels consists of triangular, circular and quatrefoil motifs.
4. Structural system: Five wooden posts carry the roof.
5. Roof:
 - a. Shape: The high pitched, steep, spire-like roof is covered with rows of fir shingles with round ends. Molding runs up the seams of the five roof sections, culminating in a tapered column-like apex topped by a gold metal weather vane.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: There is an overhang 20" wide, with a cornice band composed of evenly spaced semicircles hanging down from it 3".

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: Open, pentagonal plan.
2. Flooring: A central circular concrete step 3'-3" in radius has a square block on top indicating the former position of the pump. It is presently the base for a drinking fountain. From the step through the west bay is a gutter of small stone blocks leading out to the walkway.
3. Ceiling finish: The tongue and groove wood is painted gray.

D. Site:

1. General setting: Except for the removal of the pump and installation of a drinking fountain, and occasional repairs, nothing has happened to alter the original appearance of the south well, which lies slightly to the west of the north-south axis, adjacent to and just north of the South Gate Lodge.

Prepared by: Peter Dessauer
Field Historian
National Park Service
August, 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, architect, (University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Torpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers, in the HABS Washington office in 1983. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983.